

REMARKS

On July 20, 2011, Applicants filed a 35 U.S.C. § 120 claim for priority, amendment, and petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority. Under the claim for priority, the present application claims priority as a continuation of PCT/DE2002/000025, filed February 8, 2002, in which the U.S. is a designated state, and which in turn claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to German Patent Application No. 10107369.0, filed February 16, 2001.

In addition, the USPTO Office Action dated June 16, 2005 acknowledged the claim of foreign priority to the German Patent Application No. 10107369.0, and compliance with statutory requirements. Accordingly, the present application has a priority date of at least as early as February 16, 2001.

Claims 29-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,096,040 to Esser in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,607,430 to Bailey and further in view of U.S. Publ. Patent App. No. 2004/0116931 to Carlson. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The USPTO concedes that “Esser in view of Bailey does not disclose receiving members proximate to at least each side edge section” and relies on the Carlson reference to teach this element. Office Action at 4.

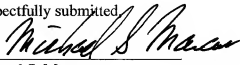
However, the Carlson reference is not available as prior art. The effective 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) filing date of the Carlson reference is December 17, 2002, nine months after Applicants’ PCT/DE2002/000025 filing and nearly two years after the Applicants’ German priority Patent Application No. 10107369.0, filed on February 16, 2001. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 29-33 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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